

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 SAM-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 AID-05

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /067 W

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O 290730Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3565

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, PO

SUBJ: TORRINGTON DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4196, LISBON 3954, AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL GOP RESPONSE TO JULY 14
DEMARCHE ABOUT TORRINGTON CASE.

2. TORRINGTON LAWYER OBTAINED COURT ORDER ON JULY 18 DECREERING
THAT PLANT SHOULD BE RESTORED TO TORRINGTON MANAGEMENT (SHANNON).
ON JULY 22 SHANNON WENT TO PLANT ACCOMPANIED BY LAWYER, TWO
COURT CLERKS, AND THREE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD. WORKERS
COMMISSION DELIBERATED FOR 90 MINUTES AND REFUSED ENTRANCE.
CLERKS AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS RETIRED IN FACE OF CATCALLS
AND THREATS. DETAILS OF SITUATION AT PLANT GATE ARE FROM
REPORT BY COURT CLERK WHICH ENDS WITH CLERK NOTING THAT WORKERS
DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIS AUTHORITY AND CALLED HIM A REACTIONARY.
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LAWYER AND COPCON AUTHORITIES BEFORE
ATTEMPT TO ENTER PLANT ELICITED FROM COPCON DENIAL OF RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING TO CARRY OUT COURT ORDER. COPCON
OFFICIAL REFERRED LAWYER TO LOCAL POLICE CHIEF WHO REFUSED
TO INTERVENE WITHOUT BLESSINGS OF COPCON.

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3. TORRINGTON LAWYER INFORMED BY SUBSECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY ON JULY 24 THAT NO DECISION ON CASE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AS HE HAD PROMISED IN JULY 11 MEETING. POLITICAL CRISIS CITED AS REASON.

4. COMATT HAS RECEIVED BATCH OF DOCUMENTS FROM WORKERS COMMISSION STATING THEIR CASE. MATERIALS PASSED ALONG BY LONG-TIME U.S. RESIDENT BUSINESSMAN BUT THEY CONTAIN NO NEW INFORMATION OR PROPOSALS.

5. SITUATION AT PLANT STILL QUIET ALTHOUGH TENSION BUILDING AS VACATION PERIOD DRAWS CLOSE. MOST WORKERS PLAN VACATION FOR AUGUST AND ARE OWED FOUR MONTH'S WAGES---SALARIES FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST AS WELL AS FOR VACATION BONUS OF ONE MONTH'S SALARY. TORRINGTON OF COURSE NOT PAYING AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN GOP WILL AGAIN PAY. TOTAL BILL ESTIMATED AT \$400,000.

6. TORRINGTON MANAGER CALLED TO LABOR MINISTRY LATE FRIDAY TO "SETTLE PROBLEM BECAUSE QUESTION OF VACATION BONUS AND SALARIES MUST BE RESOLVED" ACCORDING TO MINISTRY NEGOTIATOR. NEGOTIATOR ADDED THAT MINISTRY HAD BEEN ASKED FOR REPORT BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OPINED THAAT TORRINGTON WAS TOO SMALL A PLANT TO CAUSE CRISIS BETWEEN USG AND GOP. OFFICIAL HAD COPY OF EMBASSY DEMARCHE. MEETING BEGAN WITH MINISTRY ASKING ABOUT REPLACEMENT FOR SHANNON AND PURGE OF ELEVEN SUPERVISORS; THUS, NO PROGRESS MADE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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